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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0301

October 22, 2021

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES

RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

> COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

> > SUBCOMMITTEES
> > ENVIRONMENT
> > NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. John Amos President and CEO Yavapai Regional Medical Center 1003 Willow Creek Road Prescott, Arizona 86301

Re: Yavapai Regional Medical Center's Mandatory Vaccines

Dear Mr. Amos:

I am writing because I have been contacted by constituents concerned about the Dignity Health, Yavapai Regional Medical Center's (YRMC) decision to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine. As a healthcare provider myself, I know that the basis of all medicine is not just consent, but informed consent. Any "mandate" to undergo a medical procedure, particularly an experimental one that has no long term studies and a shockingly high complication rate, is as reckless as it is immoral. People have physical autonomy on what to put in their bodies and no one, under any guise, should compel a person to take medical vaccines, especially untested and experimental vaccines.

Private sector COVID-19 vaccine mandates stem from political decision making at the federal level by Mr. Biden. Political decisions cannot be conflated with science and medicine.

To date, nearly 20% of reported COVID-19 cases are Americans who work in the healthcare industry. They of all people understand informed consent. Thus, many healthcare providers have natural immunity which is increasingly known to be far more effective than the vaccine, especially against the variants which are attributed to the rise in hospitalizations. An Israeli study, where there is high vaccination rates, shows that natural immunity was 27 times more beneficial when compared to the vaccine.

Since August 8th, Prescott citizens have protested the vaccine mandate and raised concern with the potential loss of 1,100 doctors and nurses. Your office is clearly aware of these concerns, as you pushed the deadline back to February 1st. But this is not enough. The mandate should be eliminated. We cannot afford healthcare shortages. You saw what happened when pilots walked out on Southwest Air over its mandate. But missing a flight pales to missing surgery.

The Prescott citizens who rely on YRMC for their medical care have very vocally stated that they do not support this policy. When combined with the increasing awareness of natural immunity and shortfalls of the vaccines against the variants, this is an unwise and potentially harmful decision which could undermine your hospital and the care provided to my constituents in Arizona.

Candidates for governor of Arizona, like Kari Lake, have stated their intention to ban mandates should they be elected. There is an even stronger grassroots movement growing among the American people to not be a forced test tube for a vaccine barely even a year old. This is neither anti-vaccine nor pro-vaccine, this is the express intent of healthcare providers and citizens to make their own medical decisions.

We would like to make these medical decisions with our private healthcare providers, free of government and political influence. I would strongly urge you to reconsider this mandate to keep healthcare professionals employed, maintain the ability for your hospital to provide communal care, and retain trust with your patients who want to consult with you about taking the vaccine based on science and free from political influence.

Thank you for considering my views and the views of the people. If you want to speak further I would be happy to set up a call.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S Member of Congress